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New Assistant Secretary Welcomed by POC Employees

FNS employees had a chance to welcome the new Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services, Catherine Bertini, her second day on the job!



After touring all FNS floors of the POC building and greeting many employees, Bertini held a general session in which she discussed the important role we play in helping our country's less fortunate.

"Our role in helping these people is not only to operate the programs but really to think beyond that in terms of finding creative solutions to problems. We have to be compassionate to the people we're helping and, at the same time, be very careful about how we spend every dollar," Bertini said.

She further emphasized, "We really have a responsibility to go a step beyond: to say, how can we better outreach; how can we better tell people what we are doing, how we can better package our programs so that the people we're serving will get the best service possible?"

Before being sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services on October 11 by Secretary Yeutter, Bertini served as Acting Assistant Secretary for the Family Support Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services, where she managed a \$14-billion program since March 1989.

Her previous positions include Director of the Office of Family Assistance at the Department of Health and Human Services, Vice President and Manager of Container Corp. of America, Commissioner on the Illinois Human Rights Commission, and Commissioner on the Illinois State Scholarship Commission.



The session closed with Acting Administrator Scott Dunn presenting Bertini with an official FNS 20th Anniversary T-shirt and baseball cap.

-Story by Lisa Yue
Photos by Pamela Faith
Office of Governmental Affairs
and Public Information

FNS Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

LYNDA LOPEZ SHARES HER PAST

Citing from her childhood memories of growing up in Texas where she was called a "Mexican" for the first time by a close friend, "NEWS4 TODAY" Anchor Lynda Lopez spoke to a full house at the FNS kickoff for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

"I didn't know what one was, but I knew that I didn't want to be one," Lopez said. She's come a long way since then. Today, Lopez has become a very successful figure in the Washington area, one who is very aware and proud of her heritage.

Lopez attributes part of this success to an interview with a news director early in her career. After questioning her career goal of wanting to work out

West simply because she felt she'd be "more marketable" in a Hispanic market, he advised Lopez to let her work speak for itself. He told her she could work anywhere she wanted and succeed, regardless of her ethnic heritage.

Lopez is also quick to add that above all she is an American, and her heart lies with no other flag but the United States'. She hopes that other Hispanics will use her as an example and will follow in her footsteps to achieve success in their own fields.

-Story by Lisa Yue
Photo by Pamela Faith
Office of Governmental Affairs
and Public Information



Hispanic Heritage Month Committee members who made Lynda Lopez' visit possible are from left to right: Lindy Haffey (FSP), Robert Johnston (FSP), Carmen Schachte (CR), Carmen Todd (AE), Lynda Lopez, Annette Espinoza (AO), Alex Lopez (IRMD), and Anneva Hackley (FM).

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GUEST SPEAKER ROBERT MARTINEZ



Robert L. Martinez, deputy associate attorney general, Department of Justice, spoke about how he advanced from a GS-2 to an SES.

CULTURAL FAIR



INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON



-Photos by Pamela Faith
and Levi Thompson
Public Information Staff

Not All Big Cities Make Big Errors

MARO adopts the Wayne County, Michigan, Department of Social Services' quality control initiative to combat the food stamp error rate problem.

Sam Chambers, chief deputy director for the agency, was invited to talk to executives from large cities in the Mid-Atlantic Region recently about the department's move to this positive, more progressive stance that has improved the county's food stamp and Aid to Families With Dependent Children operations.

Within 2 years, the "Wayne County Quality Initiative" has helped reduce the error rate by 20 percent in Detroit alone, where one-half of the state's food stamp population is served.

A strategic planning group consisting of executive staff, division directors, district managers, and support staff was gathered at MARO to integrate all aspects of the drive for excellence.

The group developed five goals: provide maximum quality service to clients; recognize the value of each employee and provide quality of worklife; make the best use of available resources to achieve quality performance; enable staff at all levels to be responsible

and accountable for communication; and efficiently manage available resources within existing guidelines.

To meet the objectives, one quality analyst was assigned per office to carry out the "spirit of quality." New procedures were put in place to hire supervisory and higher level managers. Employees also receive training regularly to improve their self-image, workload management, communication skills, and team building.



MARO Administrator Chris Martin (left) thanks Sam Chambers and says that the initiative is applicable to all levels of government.

-Story and photo by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff

E&T Conference Held at MPRO

Employment and training (E&T) coordinators from MPRO states recently met in Kansas City, Missouri, to review changes in E&T programs and the potential effect on food stamp recipients.

Art Foley from headquarters discussed how the Hunger Prevention Act impacts on E&T programs and explained the handbook for submitting 2-year plans for fiscal 1990-91. Other speakers included MPRO Food Stamp Program Director Al Nickels, Nebraska E&T coordinator Luetta Anderson, Dean Curtis of Curtis & Associates, Colorado

E&T coordinator Nancy Partyka, Connie Ulmer of Kansas, and South Dakota Food Stamp Program Director Julie Osnes.

Curtis talked about management to motivate the unemployed. Partyka discussed how to gain cooperation of counties for E&T and in-kind matching funds. Ulmer's topic was the Kansas Mobile Job Club, which she directed. Osnes heads a caucus of state staff and gave Foley feedback on state reactions. Foley's final topic was outcome-based performance standards.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Ohio Assistant Attorneys Receive Recognition

Cleveland Field Officer in Charge Lowell Holt (left) recently presented certificates of appreciation to eight Cleveland Assistant U.S. Attorneys for expeditiously handling food stamp civil cases for FNS. Proudly displaying their certificates are (left to right) Michael Anne Johnson, Marcia Walker Johnson, William J. Edwards, Maureen Murphy, and Annette G. Butler.



Deputy Chief of Civil Division Richard J. French (middle) and Acting U.S. Attorney William J. Edwards of the Northern District of Ohio (right) accept certificates of appreciation from Holt on behalf of Alex A. Rokakis, Carolyn Watts, William J. Kopp, and Nancy A. Vecciarelli.



At a later date, Holt (left) also presented certificates of appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorneys (left to right) Catherine H. Killam, Thomas A. Karol, and (far right) Verne K. Armstrong in the Toledo, Ohio, Western Division office. Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Foley (second



from right) expressed his appreciation for the positive recognition of productive efforts made by assistant U.S. attorneys.

-Photos by Cleveland Field Office

Reservation Adopts WIC ADP

MPRO staffers Cathy Chegin and Doug Friesen recently installed the WIC data processing system for Three Affiliated Tribes (the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara) on Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota. MPRO staff trained WIC Director Rosalie Bird Bear and Sister Anna Rose to use the computer.

With computerized participant information and case records, they can pull a participant roster that is signed when a voucher is issued. The new system should improve reporting and recordkeeping accuracy and save staff time. WIC staff can easily pull and sort information to prepare food instrument and monthly reports required by FNS and Three Affiliated Tribes.

The program is installed on the hard disk of a portable Compaq computer. The computer and a small printer are carried to remote sites on the reservation. Three Affiliated Tribes operates the WIC program at Mandaree, Twin Buttes, White Shield, and Parshall, North Dakota, in addition to the headquarters in New Town.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

"A Celebration of Excellence" Honors Chicago Employees



Chandra Barnes (top left), Personnel management specialist, and Eloise Ellis (top right), Financial Management secretary, were FNS nominees for Chicago Area Federal Executive Board (FEB) Employee-of-the-Year. The annual awards ceremony, entitled "A Celebration of Excellence" was held September 14. The honored judges

included Illinois Governor James Thompson and six other distinguished professionals in the Chicago area. The price of the ticket included a donation for the Federal Executive Board Scholarship Fund.

-Story and photos by Diana Pihos
MWRO Public Affairs Staff



Accountability Seminar Held in Dallas

Kelly Yee, food program specialist, SWRO School Lunch Program, addresses approximately 60 state agency staff members at an accountability seminar at the Doubletree Hotel in Dallas. This is the first time all personnel who conduct National School Lunch Program reviews have come together for training prior to the start of a major regulation change.

-Story by Judy Snow
Photo by Bonnie Fuller
SWRO Public Affairs Staff



FNS Employees Conquer Peachtree

Seven SERO employees took part in the 20th Annual Independence Day Peachtree Road Race at Atlanta.



Shown in their commemorative T-shirts are (clockwise from left): Doug Perry (FSP), Sally Schultz (SNP), Todd Kincaid (PA), Art Dearen, Dan Strohl, and Jane Wells (SNP), and David Adkins (FM). They joined 25,000 other patriotic sportspersons in the 6.2 mile event, which begins at trendy Lenox Square and ends with a crowded dash through Piedmont Park.

Every SERO runner received the coveted Peachtree Road Race T-shirt for finishing in under 55 minutes.

Dan Strohl, who race-walks rather than runs, has participated 11 times and plans to continue the tradition. A member of the Atlanta Track Club, Strohl walks the race, not for competitive reasons, but because he enjoys the crowds and excitement. "There's a sense of camaraderie there," he said.

David Adkins, another Atlanta Track Club member who ran the New York City marathon last year and plans to run it again, has run the Peachtree for 4 years. "It's not a race," he joked. "It's a party. The crowds are great. And it's a great excuse to drink beer on July 4."

Doug Perry has run the race for only the second time in a decade. She was inspired to run by her husband who was

participating for the 10th time. "It was sort of an anniversary," she said. "And I wanted to take part."

Todd Kincaid has run the race six times and admits he's a lot slower than when he ran track in high school. "They time me with a sundial," he said.

Sally Shultz, formerly a competitive swimmer, ran the race because it was "the thing to do in Atlanta on July 4, and it gave me the motivation to train."

Art Dearen read about the event in Runner's World magazine and was encouraged by David Adkins to join "the party." Nursing a desire to get back into running, Art figured the Peachtree was as good a place to start as any.

The Peachtree has come a long way--from just over 100 participants in 1970 to 25,000 this year. And rumor has it the field will expand to 40,000 next year when SERO will again be represented.

-Story by Todd Kincaid
Photo by Connie Crunkleton
SERO Public Affairs Staff

Make Sure You Read the Label

If you're looking for 100-percent whole-wheat bread, you had better read the wrapper carefully, said Dairy Council, Inc., representative Brenda Ripoli at one of four nutrition sessions she gave for Special Nutrition Programs (SNP) staff recently at MARO.

"Since nutrition is our middle name, and there was a lot of interest shown through individual development plans for more information on nutrition, we wanted to provide training on the subject," said Rich Mallam, chief, Child Care and Special Operations Section. It was through an article in a Dairy Council, Inc., newsletter that he read about the nutrition presentations the council gives.

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Ripoli, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition Science/Dietetics, talked to the group about six leading diseases that have a close association with nutrition; children and fitness; dietary guidelines; and nutrition myths and misconceptions.

SNP Director Bob Freiler gave Ripoli, who has been with the council for 2 years and formerly was a nutritionist for a local agency WIC program, a certificate of appreciation after the conclusion of 8 hours of training, which Dairy Council, Inc., provided free of charge.

-Story and photo by Marion Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff



Brenda Ripoli warns employees to look carefully at labels on products.

FNS Disaster-Relief Project for South Carolina and California

A fund-raising project to provide assistance to victims of the recent disasters in both South Carolina and California is being sponsored by the Federal Women's Program (FWP). The project will be agencywide, involving headquarters and all regional offices. It will last through November 10. Regional FWP managers will serve as contacts for each region. Headquarters' contacts are Karen Peko and Margaret Batko (Food Stamp), Eunice Bowman (Civil Rights), and Donna Hines (Supplemental Food Programs).

Participation in this effort is strictly voluntary, and donors' names will not be collected. We are asking for monetary contributions, which are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: FNS Disaster Relief. Questions on the disaster-relief project should be directed to Donna Hines, project coordinator, FTS-756-3730, or your regional FWP manager.

-Story by Donna Hines
Supplemental Food Programs Division

Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands Disaster-Relief Fund

A \$400 check was sent to the American Red Cross on behalf of the FNS employees at headquarters for the Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands disaster-relief fund.

A special thanks to all who contributed for a job well done! With its disaster funds at a record low because of Hurricane Hugo and the California earthquake, Nina Shepperd at the American Red Cross expressed her sincere appreciation and said the money would be put to good use.

-Story by Carmen Schachte
Civil Rights Division

Thank You!

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of August with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>August 1988</u>	<u>July 1989</u>	<u>August 1989 2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	18.4	18.7	18.7
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	911.0	961.3	964.7
Average bonus per person	\$ 49.59	\$ 51.52	\$ 51.58
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	1,011.6	1,062.8	1,066.2
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	29.5	31.0	32.2
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	32.5	32.5	36.2
Percentage of all meals served free	77.4	78.6	77.9
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	48.5	53.3	56.5
<u>Summer Food Service Program:</u>			
Number of meals served (mil.)	22.5	42.8	22.9
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	29.4	73.3	36.9
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.7	4.3	4.4
Food cost (\$ mil.)	119.7	127.2	130.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	150.5	157.9	170.9
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>			
People participating (thous.)	216.7	256.8	268.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	3.6	4.4	4.6
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	108	109	109
People participating (thous.)	138.9	145.3	145.5
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.3	4.8	4.7
<u>TEMPORARY EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:</u>			
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	21.4	19.6	20.9

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of October 23, 1989.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

Note: No data are provided for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs during the summer months.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Operating Accountant	(A)	GS-0510	7	10/31/89	89-185	ACD
o Operating accountant	(A)	GS-0510	7/11	10/31/89	89-186	ACD
o Management Analyst	(G)	GS-0343	7/9	10/31/89	89-187	DAM
o Management Analyst	(A)	GS-0343	7	10/31/89	89-188	DAM
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	12/13	11/20/89	90-H-01	HNIS
o Management Analyst	(FNS-N)	GM-0343	14	10/31/89	90-02	DAM
o Secretary/Typist	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0318	7	10/31/89	90-05	PAD
o Secretary/Typist	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0318	5/6	11/6/89	90-06	ASD
o Home Economist	(A)	GS-0493	9/11	11/20/89	90-H-07	HNIS
o Statistician	(A)	GS-1530	7/9	11/24/89	90-08	PAD
o Nutritionist	(USDA-W)	GS-0630	13	11/20/89	89-H-181*	HNIS

Office Location

ACD - Accounting Division
 ORO - Office of Regional Operations
 DAM - Deputy Administrator for Management
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
 SNP - Special Nutrition Programs
 PAD - Program Accountability Division
 ASD - Administrative Services Division

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition
 Service - Nationwide
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition
 Service - Hdqrs.
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (USDA-W) - USDA-Wide

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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